

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JULY 1999

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Christopher J. Spruce, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

The duties and responsibilities of the treasurer for a political action committee are clarified. The bill allows a deputy treasurer to be appointed as having the same authority as the treasurer. Procedures and requirements for dissolving political action committees also are outlined.

A limitation on the use of campaign contributions for personal use is proposed and those things that are considered personal use are described.

The bill grants the commission greater flexibility in determining penalties for violations concerning campaign finance reports if bona fide efforts were made to file the report.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Commission on Governmental Ethics.

LD 2195 An Act to Allow a Specialty Wine Store to Provide Free Wine Samples CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MACK		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2195, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to allow a specialty wine store to give wine samples. The bill is proposing to require the store to have a designated area for the sampling of the wine and also to establish conditions under which the wine sampling may take place. Finally, the bill is proposing to allow an unlimited number of taste testings per month and require a retail licensee to charge for the wine tasting.

LD 2200 An Act to Permit Persons Out-of-state to Ship Malt Liquor and Wine to Maine Residents CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE WHEELER G		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2200, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to allow a person outside of this State to ship to a household in Maine up to 2.4 gallons of malt liquor and 2.4 gallons of wine per month.

LD 2224 An Act to Clarify the Definitions of "Contribution" and "Expenditure" under the Campaign Finance Laws PUBLIC 432

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROWE LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-676
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LD 2224 proposed to clarify what the definition of "contribution" does not include for the purposes of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. This bill also proposed to clarify what the definition of "expenditure" does not include for the purposes of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. Under the bill neither contributions nor expenditures would include documents created or maintained by a political party for the general purposes of party building, certain compensation paid by a political party to an employee, campaign training sessions provided to three or more candidates or the use of office equipment that involves no additional cost to the provider.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-676) proposed to correct an oversight in the original bill by clarifying language that defines what a contribution does not include.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 432 clarifies what the definitions of contributions and expenditures do not include for the purpose of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. It states that neither contributions nor expenditures include documents created or maintained by a political party for the general purposes of party building, certain compensation paid by a political party to an employee, campaign training sessions for three or more candidates or the use of office equipment that involves no additional cost to the provider.

LD 2229 **Resolve, to Extend the Hours for the Sale of Liquor on January 1, 2000** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MENDROS PINGREE		

LD 2229 proposed to provide that a person to whom a license is issued by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Liquor Enforcement may sell liquor on January 1, 2000 from 12 midnight to 4 a.m. and may permit the consumption of liquor on that person's premises on January 1, 2000 until 4:15 a.m.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

HP 1052 **Joint Study Order Establishing a Committee to Examine the Adequacy of Services at the Togus Veterans Administration Medical Center** **PASSED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE FERGUSON	OTP-AM	S-449 H-466

HP 1052 proposed to study the services that are provided at the Togus Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-466) proposed to amend the joint study order by adding a provision for staff assistance and revising the format to conform with legislative study committee guidelines.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-449) proposed to change the title of the joint order, change the first meeting date of the committee, change the selection of chairs of the committee, allow for reimbursement of necessary expenses for public members and change the report date to December 1, 1999.

Passed joint order summary

HP 1052 is a joint study order to examine the Adequacy of Services at the Togus Veterans Administration Medical Center.